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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 001608

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: EXTRADITION OF ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 00099

1. SUMMARY: ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS HAS AN OUTSTANDING ARREST WARRANT IN THE U.S. FOR CONSPIRACY, ILLEGAL CONCEALMENT OF ASSETS, MAKING FRAUDULENT AND FALSE STATEMENTS, AND CONSPIRACY IN MONEY LAUNDERING. ON MARCH 18, 1992, MR. MORRIS OBTAINED HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP FRAUDULENTLY BY CONCEALING HIS U.S. CRIMINAL HISTORY, HOPING TO AVOID EXTRADITION, GIVEN THAT THE HONDURAN CONSTITUTION DOES NOT ALLOW EXTRADITION OF ITS NATIONALS. NEVERTHELESS, ON MARCH 7, 1995, THE USG OFFICIALLY REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF ARNOLD FREDERICK MORRIS. ON AUGUST 16, 1996, HONDURAN SOLICITOR GENERAL REQUESTED REVOCATION OF MORRIS' HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP. EVER SINCE, HIS CASE HAS BEEN APPEALED THROUGH THE HONDURAN COURT SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. CURRENTLY, MORRIS HAS THREE JUDICIAL ACTIONS PENDING IN THE COURTS:

- AN APPEAL FILED BY MORRIS ON MARCH 25, 2002, WITH THE SUPREME COURT ARGUING THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE CANCELLATION OF HIS HONDURAN CITIZENSHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN FILED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND NOT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

- AN APPEAL FILED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 29, 2002, WITH THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OBJECTING THE RULING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA. THE SAN PEDRO SULA COURT HAD SUSPENDED THE CANCELLATION OF HIS NATIONALITY WHILE THE ACQUISITION WAS BEING CHALLENGED.

- AN APPEAL FILED BY MORRIS ON MARCH 5, 2003, FOR INTERIM EQUITABLE RELIEF IN ORDER TO INSURE THE EXECUTION OF THE RULING RENDERED BY ADMINISTRATIVE COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA, ON OCTOBER 24, 2002, AND REJECTED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL ON JUNE 9, 2003.

3. ON JUNE 9, 2003, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL FILED A MOTION WITH THE COURT REJECTING MORRIS' REQUEST FOR INTERIM EQUITABLE RELIEF. ON JUNE 10, 2003, POST WAS ADVISED BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE OF THE MARCH 5, 2003, MORRIS REQUEST FOR INTERIM EQUITABLE RELIEF IN ORDER TO INSURE THE EXECUTION OF THE RULING RENDERED BY THE SAN PEDRO SULA COURT.

4. Post will continue to advise the Department of developments in this case as they arise.

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